25.

THE LAST

# SPEECH and CONFESSION OF Oliver Plunket

*Titular* Primate *of* Ireland; *with an Account of his Behavior in* Newgate, *since his* Condemnation.

And also of

# Edward Fitz-Harris:

## At their EXECUTION at TYBURN, upon *Fryday, July* 1. 1681.

For HIGH-TREASON, in Conspiring the Death of the *KING*, &c.

*Fryday* the first of *July*, being appointed by his Majesties Warrant, for the Execution of *Oliver Pluncket* and *Edward Fitz-Harris*, they had some days notice given them thereof, in order to prepare themselves for Eternity; during which time several persons of Quality came to visit them, and Discoursed them concerning the horrid Crimes whereof they were found Guilty, to whom Mr. *Plunket*, (according to the *Popish Mode*) denied his being any way concerned or Guilty of the matters Charged against him, insisting much upon his not having his Witnesses ready to Vindicate his Innocency; yet owning he had received divers Summs of Money, which he alleadged were given him for the Relief of the Inferior Clergy, which he, as their Bishop distributed among them, repeating likewise many of those things which he urged at his Tryal, but especially at his Condemnation, and particularly his being Tryed in this Country, for Facts said to be committed in *Ireland*; adding, That if he had been Tryed there, he did not question but he should have been cleared. But however he said his Soul was now so well prepared for another World, that he did not desire to continue any longer in this, since he doubted whether ever he should attain to the same Temper of Mind again, and (contrary to the usual Roman Uncharitableness) desired all good Christians to pray for him.

Last Night about 5 a Clock, Mr. *Pluncket* desired Captain *Richardson* that he might retire himself to his private Devotions, and that no person whatsoever might be permitted to disturb him, nor to come to him till morning, which was accordingly done, and we hear, That some of his Friends told him, They had begged his Body.

Between Nine and ten a Clock this Morning, the Sheriffs of *London*, attended by Captain *Richardson* went to *Tower-Hill*, and there received the Body of *Edward Fitz-Harris* from the Lieutenant of the *Tower*, who being put into a Sled, prepared for that purpose, was drawn from thence through *Cornhil* and *Cheap-side* to *Newgate*, where *Oliver Pluncket* being also put into a Sled, they were both drawn from thence to *Tyburn*, there being a multitude of Spectators all the way as they passed. Mr. *Pluncket* came first to *Tyburn*, and as soon as he was taken out of the Sled, and put in the Cart, he crossed himself thrice upon the Breast, and then delivered a Paper to the Sheriff, which he desired might be Published; He then asked whether he might have liberty to speak, and it was told him, He might, and the Executioner having fitted the Rope to his Neck, he began with very solemn Protestations to declare, That he was sensible he was now going to appear before the Just Judge of Heaven and Earth, and that if he did not now speak the Truth he should be Damned to all Eternity, and then he proceeded to Declare what he was accused of, which he divided into five or six particulars, and then he repeated the same Protestations, which he had formerly used, denying his having any manner of Correspondency with the *French King*, or his Confessor, and alleadging the Impossibility of Landing an Army of Seaventy Thousand men in that place which the Witnesses Swore to,

and likewise of the improbality of their maintaining them, who could hardly keep Cloths to their backs, and were not all able to provide for half a Regiment.

He said, That he had been accused in *Ireland*, and cleared, and that he was now Tryed here, where the Jury could take no Cognizance of the likelyhood or improbability of the matter; and that he had endeavoured to reform some irregularities of the Clergy in that Kingdom, which had occasioned much hatred against him; and then because the Old Protestation, *That he was as Innocent as the Child unborn* is now grown Threadbare, He said, *That, as he hoped for Salvation, he was altogether Innocent of any thing whatsoever which was charged against him*, which he said he affirmed to be absolutely true, according to the common and usual meaning of such words among Protestants, without any manner of Equivocation or mental Reservation whatsoever; Asserting, That he did not believe that any man or power upon earth whatsoever could dispense with Lying at such a time as that: He then prayed that it would please God to bless his Majesty, the Queen, the Duke of *York*, and all the Royal Family, and concluded with forgiving all the World, and desiring pardon of all those whom he had offended, and then recommended his Soul to the mercy of God, through the Merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour, and the Blessed Virgin *Mary*; Declaring that he dyed a *Roman* Catholick, which Religion he had long continued in, and was resolved to dye in; after which he pulled his Cap over his eyes, and continued in his private Devotions above half an hour.

During which time, Mr. *Edward Fitz-Harris* was brought thither, and as soon as he came under the Gallows, Dr. *Hawkins*, Minister of the *Tower* of *London*, stept into the Sledg to him, and kneeling down, discoursed privately with him for some time; Then Mr. *Fitz-Harris* was put into the Cart, and the Doctor coming up to him, Mr. Sheriff asked Mr. *Fitz-Harris* if he had any thing to say, who answered he had delivered two Papers to Dr. *Hawkins*, upon which the Doctor produced one of them and delivered it to Mr. *Fitz-Harris*, desiring him to read it, which he accordingly did, it being an half sheet of paper on one side, wherein he did deny he was any ways concerned in the Libel for which he suffered, any farther then the discovering to his Majesty the Designs and Practises of some Persons, reflecting likewise upon Sir *William Waller* and the other Witnesses, and some other persons who had fail'd him at his Tryal.

Mr. Sheriff then desired him to Confess what he knew, and if possible to prevent the shedding of Innocent Bloud, reminding him, what he had said, when in *Newgate*, that he knew more of the Popish Plot than any other; But Mr. *Fitz-Harris* said, He had left his Mind with Dr. *Hawkins*: Then Mr. Sheriff desired to know, Whether he died a Protestant or a Papist? and Dr. *Martin* of St. *Mary Overys* inforced the same, asking him, How it stood between God and his Soul, and wishing him to declare, Whether he dyed in the Communion of the Church of *England*, or a *Roman Catholick*? telling him, That he needed not to be ashamed of dying a Protestant, but he still evaded to give any Answer, referring all to what he had given to Dr. *Hawkins*, and that he had no more to say: The Sheriffs then desired Dr. *Hawkins*, to deliver them the Papers, the Dr. reply'd, That they should have a Coppy of that which Mr. *Fitz-Harris* had read, but for the other Paper, he should deliver it only to those whom it properly concerned, or to that purpose. Then Mr. *Fitz-Harris* asked the Sherriffs, Whether they had not an Order concerning his Body, that it should not be broken (as he called it) or quartered, whereupon Mr. Sheriff *Cornish* read the Order to him, which was, That after Execution, according to the Sentence was done upon him, his Head and Quarters should be delivered to his Wife, Mrs. *Ann Fitz Harris*: He said, He thought he should not have been Quartered; Then Dr. *Hawkins* Kneeled down with him in the Cart, and prayed, or discoursed privately with him, and the Doctor going out of the Cart, prayed God to have Mercy on his Soul.

Mr. *Fitz Harris* then pulled his Cap over his Eyes, and prayed to himself, and then put his Cap up again, and desired Dr. *Hawkins* to take care of his Body, to which the Doctor Answered, *It was a very unbecoming Employment for him, and that others were appointed for that purpose*; The Doctor likewise declaring, That he desired the Prayers of all there present, which Mr. *Fitz-Harris* hearing, put up his Cap again, and said, *I desire all your prayers for an happy Passage*; and in a short time after the Cart being drawn away, they were both turned off: Mr. *Plunket* was Dead in a short time, but Mr. *Fitz-Harris*, by staggering in the Cart brought the Noose just behind the Pole of his Neck, so that he was somewhat longer a-dying. After they had hanged a considerable time, they were both Beheaded and Quartered, and their Quarters delivered to their Friends, according to the afore-mentioned Order.

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